On Campus with Max Shulman

(By the author of "Barefoot Boy With Cheek", "Rally Round the Flag, Boys!", "Dobie Gillis", etc.)

IT'S A NORTH WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD

Crushed between the twin millstones of January weather and final exams, you are saved from total despair, poor devils, only by the knowledge that winter vacation will soon be here.

Where will you go this year? Will it be Florida again, or are you tired of jails? Then how about Puerto Rico?

A most excellent notion, say I. A balmy and bounteous island with long white beaches and blue, blue skies and green, healing seas. And, most pleasant of all, the warm and gracious people of Puerto Rico! You don't even have to know Spanish to communicate with this friendly folk. Just learn three simple phrases and you'd get along splendidly: "*Buenos días*" which means "Good morning," "*Gracias*" which means "Thank you," and "*Que será será*" which means "Your llama is on my foot."

In order to help you enjoy the fabled land of Puerto Rico it would be well for me to supply a bit of historical background. (It would also be well for me to say a few words about Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades because the makers of Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades pay me to write this column and they are inclined to sulk if I omit to mention their product. Of course, they don't stay gloomy long, for they are kindly, cheery men fond of Morris dancing, spelling bees, and temperance punch—fine, upright types, as true and gleaming and durable as the blades they make. And if you've tried Personna's, you know how true and gleaming and durable that is! And if you haven't tried Personna's, poor devil, you've cheated both your purse and face, for Personna's last and last, shave after luxury shave, close, clean, nickless, hackless, tugless, gougeless, scratchless, matchless. Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades come in Double Edge or Injector style and are made only by the makers of Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades.)

But I digress. Back to the history of Puerto Rico. The island was discovered by that popular discoverer Christopher Columbus. Incidentally, considering Columbus' popularity, it's odd we know so little about him. What do we *really* know? Only this:

He was born in Genoa on August 25, 1451, the son of Ralph T. Columbus, a knee-cymbal vendor, and Eleanor (Swifty) Columbus, a low burdler. He was an only child except for his five brothers and eight sisters. From early childhood he was an avid reader and spent all his waking hours immersed in a book. Unfortunately, there was only one book in Genoa at the time—*Care of the Horse* by Aristotle—and after 18 years of reading *Care of the Horse*, Columbus grew restless. When rumor reached him there was another book in Madrid, off he ran as fast as his little fat legs would carry him.

Disappointment, alas, awaited him there. The only book in Madrid was *Cuidar un Caballo*, which proved to be nothing more than a Spanish translation of *Care of the Horse*.

Then one day Columbus heard from a traveller that there were millions of books in India, and he was instantly ablaze to set sail. Off he ran on his little fat legs to the court of Ferdinand and Isabella (Columbus, though more than six feet tall, was plagued with little fat legs all his life) and, as we all know, he persuaded the Spanish rulers to outfit him with three stout ships, the *Floopsy*, the *Moopsy*, and the *Cottontail*, and the rest is history!

Well sir, now you know all about the origins of Puerto Rico. So get packed and get going! You'll love it! Stroll the beaches, swim the coves, breathe the fragrance of hibiscus and bougainvillea. And remember always that the friendly Puerto Ricans are delighted to show you their customs, teach you their language. Why, I'll wager you'll soon know far more Spanish than the three basic phrases. You'll know "*Hasta la vista*" which means "See you later," "*Por favor*" which means "Please," and "*El tren se partió en las estaciónes*" which means "Your llama has eaten my passport."

Gracias from the makers of Personna for giving our blades such a cordial reception, and, por favor, how about trying another of our luxury shaving products — Burma Shave, regular or menthol?

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